

# AIR BRIDGE

► Vol. 11, No. 4

► 927th Air Refueling Wing, Air Force Reserve Command, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich.

► April 2006



PHOTO BY SSGT CHAD CHISHOLM, 6TH COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON

*A 927th ARW KC-135 follows a 6th AMW tanker as they taxi for the first-ever joint aerial refueling mission involving both wings. Last year's congressional approval has the 927th scheduled to realign and relocate to MacDill AFB, Fla. in 2008, bringing about the establishment of the 927th as an associate wing with the 6th AMW.*



PHOTO BY SSGT CHAD CHISHOLM, 6TH COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON

*Lt. Col. Ken Sharpe, 63rd ARS commander, and Maj. Mike Patterson, 63rd ARS, take a break from pre-flight preparations as they near takeoff from MacDill AFB, Fla. to join a 6th AMW tanker on a two-ship refueling mission.*

## Wheels of progress

by **Thomas Schmidt**  
Editor

As the decision is fast becoming reality, wheels of progress are in motion.

As dust settles from last year's Base Realignment and Closure announcement, the 927<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing's future realignment with 6<sup>th</sup> Air Mobility Wing at MacDill AFB, Fla. is taking giant steps forward.

Current plans call for the wing's eight KC-135R refueling tankers to be transferred to the Michigan Air National Guard during fiscal year 2008, with transfer of personnel authorizations to be completed by the end of calendar year 2008. The Air Force Reserve has been a mainstay of the Selfridge community since 1963.

Being proactive, wing leadership and 47 key people, led by wing commander Col. Gary Beebe, traveled to MacDill Mar. 9 to personally introduce themselves to their future counterparts.

Upon the team's arrival, people hit the ground running and set wheels of progress in motion evaluating base facilities, looking at future construction sites, setting the stage for future

integration of personnel and discussing joint usage of aircraft, equipment and facilities.

The welfare of reservists and civilian employees planning to relocate, and the development of plans for a smooth transition were at the top of the team's priorities.

Reservists with years of experience are used to working close to their home base. They don't relish the idea of uprooting and moving hundreds of miles away, said Colonel Beebe.

Relocation of the wing will expose most of the air mobility wing to the Air Force Reserve for the first time and will present a unique opportunity to develop new working relationships and friendships.

The formation of an associate wing will be both a growing and a learning experience for the two wings. With people's open-mindedness, positive attitudes and teamwork, a successful and seamless transition is on the horizon.

Eager to show its stuff, the 63<sup>rd</sup> Air Refueling Squadron flew an integrated two-ship refueling mission along the Atlantic Ocean coastline with 6<sup>th</sup> AMW to reinforce the ideal of a seamless Air Force. Aircrew professionalism and the well-

see, *Progress*, page 2

## ► VIEW FROM THE TOP

by Col. Gary Beebe  
Wing Commander

The past month has been very busy!

### MacDill visited

Forty-seven 927<sup>th</sup> personnel flew to MacDill AFB to get a “first look” at the base, our new host wing and the local community. It was a very successful visit. The base is beautiful, 6<sup>th</sup> AMW received us with open arms and the local community has so much to offer.

Several large group sessions were conducted, followed by breakouts of the different functional areas, to discuss how we can best work together. Our hosts graciously provided a sneak preview of the construction plans for new facilities to house the 927<sup>th</sup>.

### Downsizing

As many of you may know, Program Budget Directive 720 (PBD 720) has directed the Air Force to reduce in size by over 50,000 personnel across active duty, Air Force Reserve Command and Air National Guard. The reserve portion of this personnel loss is 7,744 positions, which is almost 10 percent. The active duty cut is 35,000 personnel, making our association with the 6<sup>th</sup> AMW more important than ever. A synergistic effort



needs to be created to figure how we may continue to protect our nation with less people.

### Distinguished visitor

The very next weekend Maj. Gen. Kathy Thomas, mobilization assistant to the AFRC vice commander, paid a welcomed visit to Selfridge. Many had the chance to visit with her and ask very pointed questions. She has carried your concerns to the highest levels of the command. The general was so impressed with everyone she came in contact with. Thank you for representing yourselves and our wing so professionally. You only

get one chance to make a first impression and all of you did great. Her speech at the Women's History Banquet was very motivating and memorable.

### SATAF players

The following week, five wing representatives participated in the Site Activation Task Force (SATAF) conducted at MacDill to look at the stand up of the 927<sup>th</sup>. Our folks brought back information and did some great work convincing Air Mobility Command and AFRC that some positive facilities changes needed to be made in the plan.

Thank you to Col. Glenn Passavant, Maj. Todd Thibault, Chief Master Sgt. Bill Fields, Ms. Joanne Gray and Ms. Kathy Sullivan for your time and commitment to making this move a success.

Time is marching on very quickly. I continue to be impressed with the caliber of people that make up our wing. Leadership is every airman's responsibility and duty...to their fellow man, their unit and our great nation. Thank you for continuing to serve.

## Progress *(continued)*

maintained tanker left a favorable impression with the air mobility wing. Col. Raymond Kozak, 927<sup>th</sup> Operations Group commander, said, “Lt.Gen. Bradley's vision for AFRC people and units to be “unrivaled Wingmen” is a perfect match for what we want operations in the 927<sup>th</sup> ARW reserve associate unit to become. In fact, we took actual and symbolic steps in that direction with our first example of personnel inter-flying and formation flying during the site visit.”

The wheels of progress are moving forward.



PHOTO BY SSGT CHAD CHISHOLM, 6TH COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON

*Aircrews from the 927<sup>th</sup> ARW and 6<sup>th</sup> AMW make preparations for the first-ever two-ship refueling mission involving both wings. The mission was flown in conjunction with the wing's visit to MacDill AFB March 9-11.*



## ► IN THE CHIEF'S WORDS

by Chief Master Sgt. Clifford Whitenburg  
Command Chief Master Sergeant

It's Monday afternoon after another long UTA weekend spent trying to fit a 12 inch pizza on a 6 inch plate, you know the feeling.

I'm taking stock of a wonderful Air Force career, and the exhilaration of having the best job in the entire Air Force; Command Chief Master Sergeant of the 927th ARW! As I do from time to time, I have a little conversation with myself (contrary to popular belief I am NOT crazy) and rechecking my motives for taking this job. As I do, two primary reasons come to mind; I want to do the greatest thing anyone can do and that is serve my fellow man, in this case, my fellow Airman and I do this because I deeply care. But, another much quieter voice asks the question, "do you REALLY care or are you just saying that?"

One of my college presidents liked to say, "Your walk talks and your talk talks,

but your walk talks louder than your talk talks." What he was saying is, what you do speaks louder than what you say.

As I walk around our Wing I hear many platitudes such as, "I am a professional", "I would do anything to take care of my people", and "I really care about my people", but do we really mean that? Do we care enough about our people to hold them accountable to Air Force standards in their conduct, their job performance, and their appearance or are we more concerned about what they will think of us if we do? Do we care enough about our supervisors to hold them accountable? Do we care enough about each other to hold each other accountable? Have we used these phrases for so long without putting corresponding actions behind them that they have become mere buzzwords? Are you just talking the talk, or do you walk the walk by making yourself and those around you accountable? If you are a true professional, if you really care, then



you will hold yourself and those around you accountable.

- Chief Whit

## Leadership in time of transition

by Senior Master Sgt.  
David Schwartz  
First Sergeant, 927th LRS

Now that we all know the 927th is transitioning to MacDill AFB, it is time to focus on what needs to be accomplished to make the move successful. Many feel slighted, some feel hurt, and there are those who feel relieved. Through all of this we must not lose sight of an important point, *we must all work together from the top down to make this transition successful.*

I refer to this point as, **Leadership Transition**. This means all of us, from commanders to the lowest

ranking Airmen, must accept a role, no matter how large or small, and take this move seriously.

There are few events in the life of a Wing that are as critical, as visible, or as stressful as relocating to a different part of the country. The eyes of every Airman are focused on leadership. The manner in which this transition is managed reveals the character and effectiveness of not only our leadership, but of each and every member in the Wing.

Although there is time to prepare, it must be remembered to work as a team. A successful transition can be seamless, productive,

and unifying. Leadership transition is an integral process for all of us. The process can present to Wing members, who choose to move to MacDill, with a remarkable opportunity for new positions, a new base, new surroundings, a new strategy and the energy of a new beginning.

In the mean time, we must work together to support our leadership, communicate effectively, ask questions, and above all, keep faith in ourselves while maintaining our commitment to the Wing. There is much to accomplish over the course of the next two years, and it will take all of us to make it happen.



Collectively we must:

- Listen and learn from others
- Energize the organization
- Act for the benefit of everyone
- Develop ourselves and others
- Empower others to lead
- Recognize other's achievements
- Effectively communicate

## ► WING NEWS

# Women's history celebrated

by 1st Lt Terry Bond  
Public Affairs Officer

"First, take care of yourself, both mentally and physically," said guest speaker, Maj. Gen. Kathy Thomas, as she spoke to 927<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing members gathered March 18 for the eighth annual Women's History Month celebration. This year's theme is *Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams*. "You take care of yourself mentally by receiving a good education. Your physical responsibility is to wear your uniform proudly and with a proper fit," the general said.

General Thomas was one of the last Woman Air Force (WAF) squadron commanders in Strategic Air Command and helped write the plan to completely integrate women into the Air Force.

As mobilization assistant to the USAF Academy superintendent, she was the chief architect of the Leadership Development Council and led Officer Development System implementation for the cadet wing. Currently, the general is the mobilization assistant to Maj. Gen. Allan Poulán, Air Force Reserve Command vice commander.

General Thomas captivated the audience with a mix of witty humor and sincerity, giving examples of the changing role military women have played over the years in defense of our country. She also highlighted her many impressive career accomplishments.

For many years, contributions women have made were overlooked or considered insignificant. National Women's History Month was organized to recognize and celebrate the many accomplishments that women have made during the history of our country.

***"First, take care of yourself, both mentally and physically."***

**- Gen. Thomas**

The wing has observed Women's History Month for the last eight years through the ceaseless and untiring efforts of Senior Master Sgt. Janet Wescott, 927<sup>th</sup> Military Personnel Flight first sergeant. She is the driving force for the program's implementation and

organization, its ongoing tradition and continued success.

As the tradition continues, this year's celebration will be remembered as the first dinner banquet, with over 50 members in attendance. Discussion among those in attendance praised the evening's event saying it was a resounding success, with most of the credit being given to our guest speaker.

## Little known facts

- ➔ One in six active duty officers is a woman
- ➔ One in seven active duty enlisted is a woman
- ➔ 34% of active duty women are in the Army
- ➔ 17.2% of the Reserve Forces are women
- ➔ 30.8% of Reserve Forces women are in the Army
- ➔ One in six Reserve officers is a woman
- ➔ One in six enlisted Reserves is a woman



**Pictured at far left,** Maj. Gen. Kathy Thomas addresses Women's History Month celebration audience during her visit to Selfridge Mar. 18. **Top right,** Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Licari, wing career advisor, listens intently to the general's remarks. **Bottom right,** Maj. Bruce Messer, public affairs officer, and Capt. Susan Tschirhart, chief, military equal opportunity, definitely enjoy the humor in the general's comments during her presentation.



## ► WING NEWS

## New web site up and running

A new and improved source of information where the public may learn more about the 927<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing, Air Force Reserve and the Air Force is now available.

The 927<sup>th</sup> ARW web site has been updated and formatted to match the style of Air Force Link, the official public Web site for the U.S. Air Force. Its main target is primarily the general public and is managed by public affairs.

The site features news stories, photo and art galleries, a library containing unit fact sheets and leadership

biographies, and answers to commonly asked questions. The unit publication, "Air Bridge," is also available electronically, putting it in your home reading room much faster than traditional mail delivery.

"Reservists and civilian employees are encouraged to regularly visit the site as a way to keep informed," said Major Bruce Messer, wing public affairs officer. "This site should also prove to be valuable to employers by visiting the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve link. Questions and answers, along

with other important information, are readily available to them."

Official Air Force business may not be conducted through the public web site, so detailed training information and will not be found.

Reservists and civilian employees are encouraged to tell their friends and relatives about the site as a means of spreading the word about the 927<sup>th</sup> ARW.

The public Web page may be accessed at <http://www.927arw.afrc.af.mil>.

## Clergy Flight

A first-ever clergy orientation flight is being planned for June 16.

Clergy from all faiths who are U.S. citizens are welcome to attend this event.

Aerial refueling will be the highlight of the day with a presentation outlining the missions of the wing and Air Force Reserve Command being included in the day's activities. Lunch will also be provided.

Nomination forms may be procured from public affairs by calling 586-307-5575 or by stopping at the office located in building 301.

## ► STREET TALK

***Given the vastness of our world, where would you most enjoy a dream vacation of your choice and why?***



**Staff Sgt. Peggy Cornell**  
**927th MXS**

"Paris, I think. There are museums galore, the Eiffel Tower and it's rich in culture."

**SRA Karla Morton**  
**927th MOF**

"I would like to go to Milan, Italy for the shopping and the fashion. I would go with my girlfriends and make it a girl's week."



**A1C Maribeth Johnson**  
**927th ASTS**

"I say Ireland because of the castles, all the green, and the culture. And, because I'm Irish."

**Tech. Sgt. Larry Taylor**  
**927th MXS**

"Pisa, Italy. I went there before with the wing and I just loved it, but since I was working I couldn't enjoy it as much. I liked all the restaurants. I could eat at all of them and never gained any weight."



## ► NEWS

## Wing earns award

by **Thomas Schmidt**  
927th ARW Public Affairs

The 927<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing has stepped up to the plate once again.

The Air Force Outstanding Unit Award has been bestowed upon the wing for exemplary professionalism and dedication to its mission during 2005.

In a letter from Maj. Gen. Allan Poulin, Air Force Reserve Command vice commander, he announced the wing as one of 21 Air Force Reserve units to receive the award.

"It gives me great pleasure to announce the Reserve units selected as recipients...for 2005," the general said.

"Members of these organizations should be extremely proud of their many achievements and contributions resulting in this prestigious award."

Col. Gary Beebe, wing commander, said to all 927th ARW members, "You have always known the 927<sup>th</sup> is an outstanding organization, now the rest of the world knows it as well. Thank you for all you do to make the wing a great place to serve your country. Never lose the spirit of

community that causes you to look after each other and take care of the mission."

## Customer service expanded

Air Force Reservists are now able to speak to an Air Reserve Personnel Center customer service representative the first weekend of each month from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. MST.

This enhanced customer service step gives Reservists the flexibility to speak with a representative to help resolve personnel issues.

If the first weekend of the month is not convenient, Airmen may contact a customer service representative during the week by calling toll free 1-800-525-0102.

Some people simply don't have time during the week to take care of personnel issues," said Staff Sgt. Carrie Doolen, customer service representative.

Reservists who aren't able to call ARPC are encouraged to log on to the virtual Personnel Center

Guard and Reserve, a 24/7 customer service Web portal operated by ARPC at [arpc.afrc.af.mil/support/default.asp](http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/support/default.asp). Airmen will have to answer a few questions to establish an account.

*(Air Force Print News)*

## Cash bonuses increased

For many Air Force Reservists there is money waiting to be claimed.

A cash bonus is now available for members reenlisting/retraining, non-prior service, prior service and individuals affiliating.

The maximum dollar amount of a bonus paid to a member has significantly increased and is retroactive to Oct. 1, 2005.

With a signed written bonus agreement and approval of the enlisted incentive bonus, a member will be paid an initial payment on their first year anniversary, with the remainder being paid in equal installments annually.

For the full story contact Master Sgt. Kenneth Licari, 927<sup>th</sup> ARW career advisor, at (586) 307-6927.

## Drivers be aware, be safe

New cell phone restrictions have been implemented for drivers.

People are no longer allowed to talk on their cell phones without a hands-free device while driving on Air Force installations.

This restriction also applies to all government owned vehicles at all times. GOV drivers are not permitted to talk on a cell phone while driving without a hands-free device on or off base.

Joint Traffic Regulation, Air Force Instruction 31-218(I), Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision, not only restricts the use of cell phones while driving, but also allows the Air Force to use portable breath screening devices as long as they conform to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration standards.

The joint traffic document states: "Vehicle operators on a DOD installation and operators of government owned vehicles shall not use cell phones unless the vehicle is safely parked or unless they are using a hands-free device."

*(Air Force Print News)*

# AIR BRIDGE

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927th Air Refueling Wing Commander

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## ► NEWS

### Recruiters seek recruiters

If you are motivated and perform above the status quo, you might consider a career in recruiting.

Air Force Reserve Command Recruiting Service is always looking for enthusiastic, qualified people who are physically and morally fit.

Recruiting is not an ordinary 9-5 job. Recruiters are the Air Force Reserve in the eyes of people in their community. They represent the pride, honor and tradition of the Air Force Reserve to everyone they meet.

Recruiters work in the community, call on radio and television stations, and visit high schools. They help others make decisions that will affect the rest of their lives.

Applicants complete a packet to include a current physical, and the packet goes to the recruiter selection board at Robins AFB.

If approved, the next step is attending a five-day evaluation and selection course at AFRC Recruiting Service headquarters. The course gauges a person's potential to become a successful recruiter.

"The course introduces prospective candidates to reserve recruiting," said Chief Master Sgt. Budell Willis, chief of recruiting training branch. "Candidates stand open-ranks inspection, participate in physical training, give speeches and complete memorization work."

"The challenges are progressive," he said. "Only

the top candidates attend the recruiting school."

"This is one of the most challenging technical schools in the Air Force," said Master Sgt. Barry Kowald, an instructor at the school. "The six weeks prepare a person to be a mission-ready recruiter."

Local senior recruiters have more details about becoming a recruiter in the Air Force Reserve.

*(AFRC News Service)*

### Seminars for junior officers offered

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – Air Force Reserve Command's Professional Development Center here is taking applications for a series of junior officer leadership development seminars this summer in the United States and Germany.

The JOLDS seminars train company grade officers in leadership, teambuilding, cultural diversity, mobilization issues and military officership.

Second lieutenants through captains have until May 26 to enroll in a JOLDS seminar at Peterson AFB, Colo., June 8-11. Enrollment will start later for a seminar at Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass., Sept. 14-17.

The International JOLDS will run from July 29 to Aug. 5 at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Deadline to sign up via e-mail is May 10.

More information and course requirements are available on the AFRC internal Web site by clicking

on the headquarters directorate icon and going to A1 Manpower and Personnel.  
*(AFRC News Service)*

### Selfridge main gate gets a facelift

With a chance to make a good first impression, Selfridge Air National Guard Base has unveiled plans for a modern main entrance to the base.

A ceremony was held Mar. 10 to kickoff the new project and construction started April 1 on the new main gate complex.

The \$4 million project will house the Air National Guard recruiting office, a visitor's center, and a pass and identification office.

To more easily enforce security requirements, an updated guard shack and a new area where motor vehicles can be searched prior to entering the base will also be part of the complex.

The main gate is scheduled to remain open until August 1, and after that is expected to be closed through the month of October.

Traffic will be routed to the Joy Boulevard entrance, where a temporary pass center will be opened and a 24-hour operation will continue.

For those whose vehicles have base stickers, the Golf Gate entrance on North River Rd. will be open during limited hours-5:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.



Employers of 927<sup>th</sup> ARW reservists have reaped prestigious awards bestowed upon them by the Michigan Committee Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

Annually, reservists put forth the extra effort to make it possible for employers to be recognized for their support of the Air Force Reserve.

While not all employers were award winners, a select few have been recognized for outstanding support of their employee/reservist.

Above and Beyond award winners and their respective reservist are:

Dr. Gerald Cliff, Chief, Saginaw Police Department/SSgt Patrick Shaltry, 927<sup>th</sup> AMXS

Michigan State Representative Rick Jones/A1C Cana Garrison, 927<sup>th</sup> APF

Dearborn Fire Department/SSgt Ryan Darnell, 927<sup>th</sup> CES

Ford Motor Co./2Lt Karen Mesko, 927<sup>th</sup> LRS

United Parcel Service/MSgt Robert Ross, 927<sup>th</sup> OSF

The highly prestigious Pro Patria award was awarded to: Pfizer, Inc., nominated by Maj. Gary Morrison, 63<sup>rd</sup> ARS.

The Pro Patria award is presented to those employers who demonstrate exceptional support for our national defense by adopting personnel policies that make it easier for employees to participate in the National Guard and Reserve.



## ► PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



COURTESY PHOTO

Maj. Brian Klink, 927th CES commander, right, accompanies Gen. T. Michael Mosely, chief of staff of the Air Force, during the general's visit to the squadron at its deployed location in southwest Asia.



PHOTO BY LOMAX LAGRANDE, 127WG MULTIMEDIA SERVICES

Maj. Gen. Kathy Thomas, mobilization assistant to Maj. Gen. Allan Poulin, Air Force Reserve Command vice commander, meets Tech. Sgt. Todd Mills as she tours 927th Aerospace Medicine Flight facilities during her visit to Selfridge March 18. The general saw with her own eyes a high level of activity, which is normal for the squadron on any given UTA weekend.

Escorting the general were Maj. Bradley Morrison, senior administrator, rear, and Col. Glenn Passavant, flight commander.

## BIG PICTURE

**April -**

22-23 Unit Training Assembly

**May**

20-21 Unit Training Assembly

**June**10-11 Unit Training Assembly  
16 Clergy Orientation Flight**July**

22-23 Unit Training Assembly

**August**19-20 Unit Training Assembly  
20 Family Day**September**

23-24 Unit Training Assembly

## Retirements

Lt. Col. George Horvath, 927th ARW  
Master Sgt. Joel Gallihugh, 927th SFS  
Tech. Sgt. Bucky McCuiston, 927th MXS  
Master Sgt. Beverly Mier, 927th SVF  
Master Sgt. John Moffitt, 927th SFS  
Tech. Sgt. Oscar Naylor, 927SVF

## Finally . . .



The Air Bridge is published for reservists like Staff Sgt. Betsey Singleton, 927th SVF.

**927th AIR REFUELING WING (AFRC)**  
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